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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
Edward S. Ellis et al.) Art Unit 1764
Serial No. 09/457,434) Before the Examiner
Filed: December 07, 1999) Jerry D. Johnson
PRODUCTION OF LOW SULFUR/LOW)
AROMATICS DISTILLATES)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

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SEP 3 - 2002
TC 1700

Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated May 21, 2002. Please enter the following amended claim and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amended claim. A marked-up version is provided at the end of this response.

1. A two stage process for hydroprocessing a hydrotreated distillate feedstock which process comprises:

a) reacting said feedstock in a first reaction stage in the presence of a once-through hydrogen-containing treat gas cascaded from the second reaction stage herein, said first reaction stage containing one or more reaction zones operated at hydrodesulfurization conditions wherein each reaction zone contains a bed of hydrotreating catalyst;

b) passing the resulting reactant to a separation zone wherein a vapor phase stream and a liquid phase stream are produced;

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